

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 3, 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 10-24 are pending and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 10-24 are amended to clarify that which the Applicants contend is their invention. Claims 25-30 are added.

The Examiner indicates that the Declaration as previously filed is defective. Accordingly, a newly executed Declaration is enclosed.

The Examiner states that the specification contains informalities that need correction, namely replacement of the German subscripts (vor, nach and soll) with the English translation thereof. The amendments are made as requested and the Applicants note that the amendments to the subscripts also correct an error that was introduced in the translation of the specification from the German. Support for the correction (on (renumbered) page 10, lines 5 and 6) of the subscripts is found in the priority document.

For the reasons stated previously and hereinafter, the Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 10-24 Under § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 10-24 are rejected under § 112, first paragraph, as being based on a non-enabling specification. Specifically, the Examiner states that "anodizing time" as described on page 9 of the specification is critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but is not included in the claims. Responsively, the Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, clarify the processing time. The Applicants further submit that the disclosure is fully enabling to one of skill in the art inasmuch as the process, and the means for determining the anodizing time for the reversal of electrolyte flow, is clearly described. That is, the specification teaches that the surface of the workpiece to be coated is measured before the coating process and is measured again after the coating process, and that the differential in desired thickness of the coating to achieve a desired form and thickness is determined, according to the equation, by subtracting from the desired, or setting value, dimensions the averaged values of the before and after

dimensions of the workpiece.

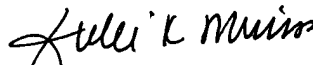
The Examiner also states that the K constant in the equation has not been adequately defined and its calculation has not been described. However, the Applicants submit that the specification teaches that the constant may be determined either empirically or by calculation and the Applicants submit that it would be clear to one of skill in the art how to make that determination. That is, the determination of the of the K constant, as known by those skilled in the art, is based on the measured deposition of coating, the electrolyte being used, the time of the coating process and the DC current being applied.

The Examiner states further that the equation " $\Delta\emptyset$ " does not show the manner in which the values $\emptyset_{1\text{before}}$, $\emptyset_{2\text{before}}$, $\emptyset_{1\text{after}}$ and $\emptyset_{2\text{after}}$ are used in conjunction with the variables \emptyset_{soll} , \emptyset_1 and \emptyset_2 . However, the Applicants note, as stated above, that the equation and the drawing figures, as now amended to show the English translation, make the equation clear to one of skill in the art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the application and claims to clarify the invention, the Applicants submit that claims 10-30 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attached: Replacement Sheet - FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A and 3B
Newly executed Declaration